



August 12, 2013

Dear Representative Cohen:

Our undersigned organizations offer you our sincere gratitude for your support for curtailing wasteful and unnecessary spending at the Pentagon. We, and our many members and supporters in your district, thank you for your leadership on amendment #29 to reduce the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund from \$279 million to \$140 million. Thank you also for voting in favor of the following amendments that the House approved on the Defense Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2014 (H.R. 2397):

- #27 reducing the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund by \$79 million
- #30 decreasing the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund by \$553.8 million to zero-out the contract to Rosoboronexport for Mi-17 helicopters
- #36 prohibiting funds in the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund from being used to commence new projects
- #55 to reduce funds made available in the Overseas Contingency Operations budget by \$3.546 billion
- #96 prohibiting funding for the Department of Defense aviation demonstration teams to perform outside the United States

There is a growing consensus that Congress can, and should, find areas for substantial savings in the Pentagon's bloated budget. Our campaign includes organizations with diverse interests and ideologies from progressive to fiscally conservative. We have set aside differences to work together to rein in profligate spending in the Pentagon budget. We are very pleased that several

commonsense amendments for which we advocated were approved with strong bipartisan support—resulting in more than \$4 billion in savings for taxpayers.

Likewise, we commend you and your colleagues from both sides of the aisle for taking a bipartisan approach to national security budget issues. It's the way Washington ought to work, but so rarely does. Reining in wasteful and ineffective spending at the Pentagon not only saves valuable tax dollars, but it also helps make America safer. Our economic and national security depends upon the courage you have shown in making these decisions.

Thank you again for your leadership on amendment #29 and the position you took on these votes. We look forward to working with you and your staff to achieve even more in the future.

Sincerely,

American Friends Service Committee
Coalition to Reduce Spending
Just Foreign Policy
National Taxpayers Union
Peace Action
Peace Action West
Progressive Democrats of America (PDA)
Project On Government Oversight (POGO)
R Street
Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA)
Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)
Win Without War